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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/619,104	07/19/2000	Daniel F.X. O'Reilly	NEWS-I	1014
7590	01/15/2004		EXAMINER	
Pandiscio & Pandiscio			ASSOUAD, PATRICK J	
470 Totten Pond Road				
Waltham, MA 02451-1914			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

2857

DATE MAILED: 01/15/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/619,104

Applicant(s)

O'REILLY ET AL.

Examiner

Patrick J Assouad

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 November 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This action is responsive to the Response filed 11/24/03. Claims 1-28 are pending. Independent claims 1 and 28 have been amended by the Response filed 11/24/03. No claims have been cancelled.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 11/24/03 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

3. Applicant has amended independent claims 1 and 28 to now stipulate that news articles are explicitly "produced by at least one news source [emphasis added by the Examiner]." Applicant seem to argue this new limitation and that "the prior art of record does not teach or disclose... a count of new articles... which are related to a subject... [emphasis added by Examiner]"

4. Applicant again clearly admits in his Remarks that "Reilly et al. disclose a display statistics generator that keeps track of how many times users request a specific news item during a given time period.... [and] Herz et al. disclose a system that monitors which articles are read by a user and updates the user's preference profiles [emphasis added by Examiner]" (see pg. 10 of the Response filed 11/24/03).

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5. The news articles of both Reilly et al. and Herz et al. were not produced in a vacuum; they were indeed produced by a news source. Two examples of news producers are the AP News and the Dow News shown in Fig. 1 of **Reilly et al.** (reproduced below). The Examiner also believes that the news statistics of both **Reilly et al.** and **Herz et al.** include *subjects* of news articles. The term *subjects* is broadly but reasonably interpreted as follows. See at least Figs. 4-6 and 8 of **Reilly et al.** for news categories, news subcategories, news headlines, and of course, various time-stamped news stories. See at least Figs. 5 and 10 of **Herz et al.** for "document activity" and the "monitor[ing of] which articles are read".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claims 1-28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Reilly et al.** ('549) in view of **Herz et al.** ('939).

8. Fig 1 of **Reilly et al.** and Fig. 10 of **Herz et al.** are reproduced below.

9. **Reilly et al.** disclose an information and advertising distribution system and method. **Reilly et al.** substantially disclose the instant claimed method and apparatus.

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More particularly, they disclose in col. 9 that their “display statistics generator 210 keeps track of how many times each news item has been displayed in the same time period. These display statistics are stored in the user profile 194 at 218...news items display statistics are transferred to the information server once per day during a connection...”

10. The difference between the instant claimed invention and that of **Reilly et al.** lies in the “signaling when the comparison yields a difference greater than a predetermined amount”.

11. **Herz et al.** disclose a system for generation of user profiles for a system for customized electronic identification of desirable objects. They particularly teach that information related to an online user’s particular interests and activities is of very special interest to marketers and advertisers. Demographic analysis and market research of user profiles can be used to match target objects to users more readily. Newspaper stories are merely one element of a user’s particular profile. See at least cols. 5-7 of **Herz et al.** How often a particular subject or article of a particular newspaper or novel is read is a good indicator of its popularity. According to **Herz et al.** each user’s profile interest summary is “automatically updated on a continuing basis to reflect the user’s changing interests” (col. 6). Such updating is associated by the Examiner with the claimed “signaling”. See at least Fig. 10 of **Herz et al.**

12. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the “automatic updates to reflect the user’s changing interests” as taught by **Herz et al.** into the information distribution system of **Reilly et al.** because such a system provides almost instantaneous market research data that can be exploited to match numerous products and services to a particular user’s measurable interests.

13. With respect to dependent claims 2-27, the Applicant is urged to closely review at least Figs. 1, 4 and 5 of **Reilly et al.** which clearly show the various claimed client/server relationships, the various databases/news sources, and the various statistics and timestamps.

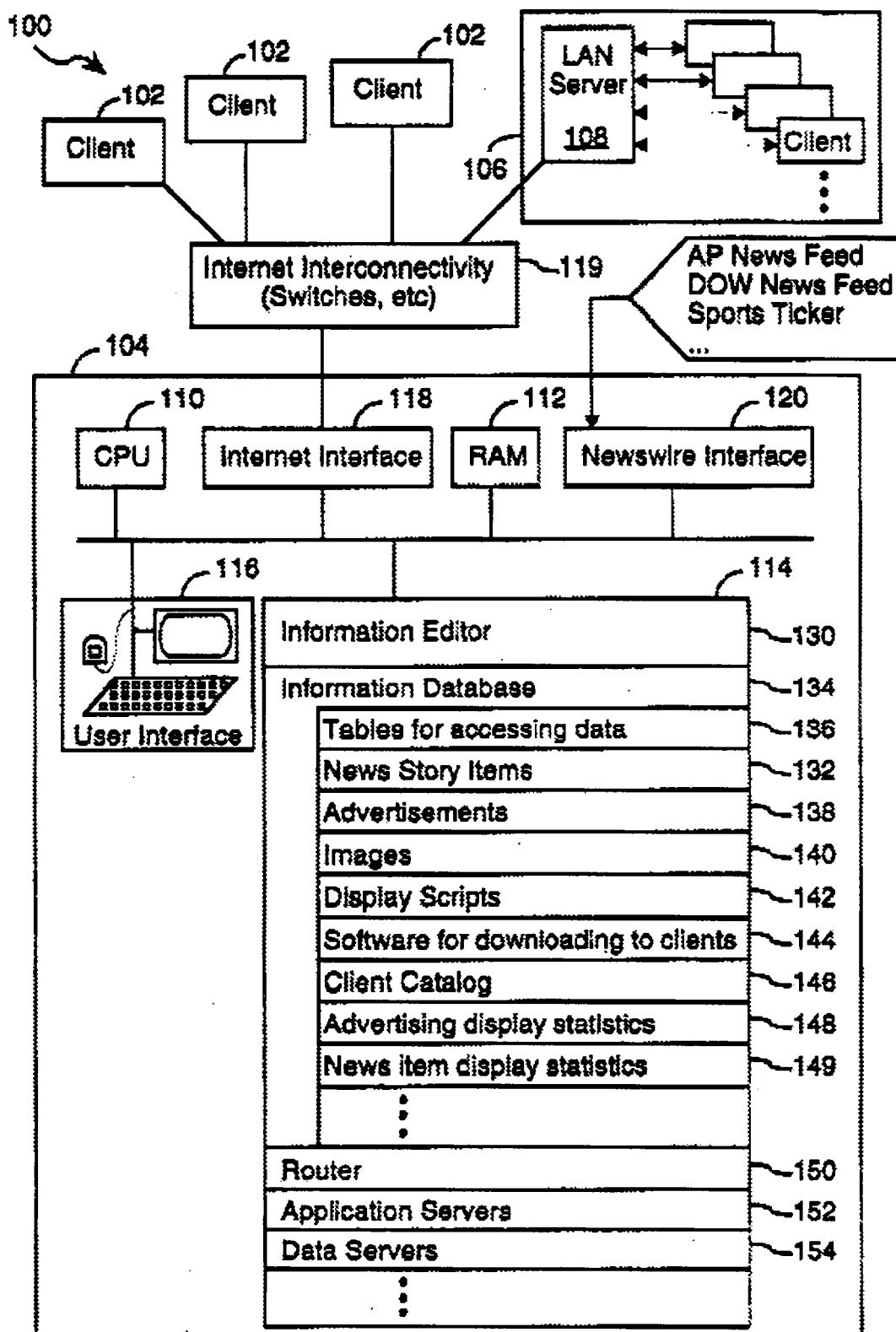


FIGURE 1

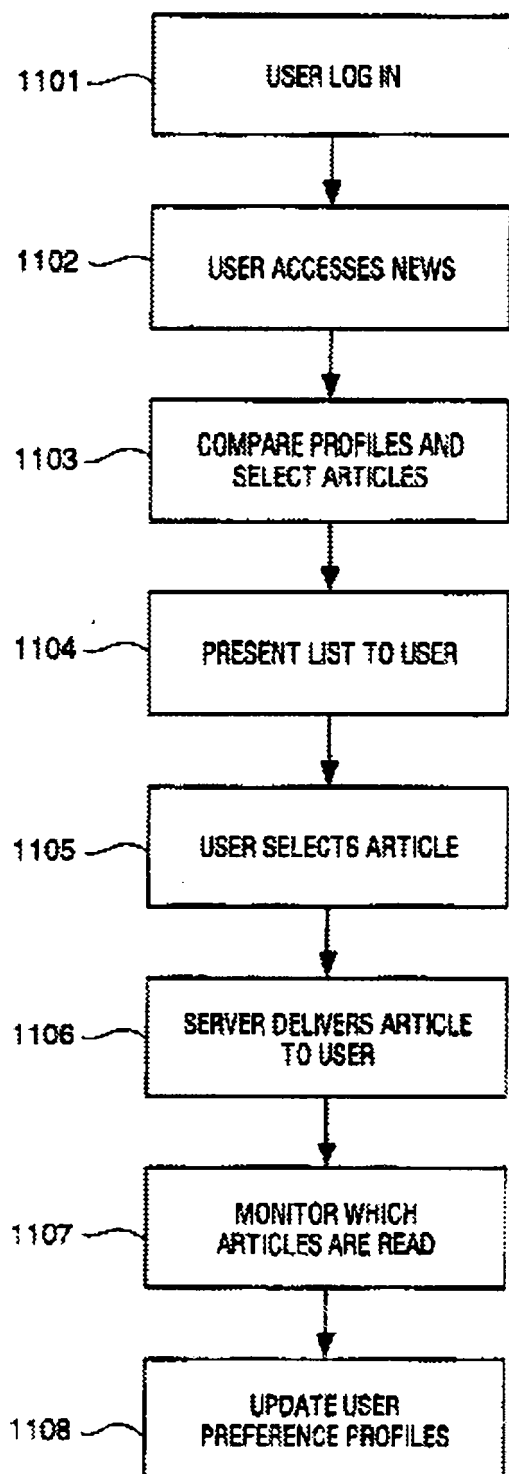


FIG. 10

Conclusion

13. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

14. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Patrick J Assouad whose telephone number is 703-305-3811. The examiner can normally be reached on Tuesday-Friday, 6:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Marc Hoff can be reached on 703-308-1677. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-308-7722 for regular communications and 703-308-7724 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Patrick J. Assouad', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Patrick J Assouad
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2857

pja